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SENATE BILL 116

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Tsosie

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR  
TEACHERS IN RURAL AND NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS;  
CREATING A CENTER IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION;  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of the Public School Code is  
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] CENTER ESTABLISHED-- POWERS AND DUTIES. --

A. The department of education shall establish  
within the department a "center for rural and Native American  
education", which shall be located in northwest New Mexico to  
provide teachers in rural and Native American school districts  
who have limited access to educational resources with the  
knowledge and skills necessary to address the needs of

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1 culturally and linguistically diverse students from rural and  
2 Native American communities.

3 B. The center shall:

4 (1) provide professional development for  
5 teachers who work with Native American students, bilingual  
6 students and students from low socioeconomic backgrounds;

7 (2) collaborate with institutions of higher  
8 education, public schools, teachers and tribal governments to  
9 plan educational activities and learning opportunities;

10 (3) design, develop and make available to  
11 teachers curricula specific to the four core content areas of  
12 reading-language arts, mathematics, science and social studies,  
13 with emphasis on speaking, reading and writing, and ensure that  
14 the curricula align with state content standards and  
15 benchmarks;

16 (4) develop models for the recruitment,  
17 retention and support of teachers who are qualified to provide  
18 instruction to culturally and linguistically diverse students  
19 to ensure improved student achievement;

20 (5) research how teachers may best provide  
21 speaking, reading and writing instruction to culturally and  
22 linguistically diverse student populations;

23 (6) disseminate to teachers effective models  
24 to improve academic success for culturally and linguistically  
25 diverse students in the four core content areas;

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1 (7) collaborate with the office of Indian  
2 education to ensure that work and programs are not duplicated;

3 (8) develop policy recommendations related to  
4 professional development models and effective reading and  
5 teaching strategies that assist culturally and linguistically  
6 diverse students to become successful learners; and

7 (9) provide other technical assistance to  
8 teachers, public schools and school districts as approved by  
9 the department of education.

10 C. The department of education shall:

11 (1) employ a director and other staff to carry  
12 out the purpose of the center;

13 (2) ensure that the center collaborates with  
14 school districts and addresses the needs of the school  
15 districts and their students and that the activities of the  
16 center are aligned with the educational plans of school  
17 districts;

18 (3) ensure that the center promotes progress  
19 in student achievement as set forth in the state accountability  
20 system;

21 (4) collaborate with institutions of higher  
22 education in research activities associated with the center and  
23 disseminate such research findings to support the development  
24 of policy and programs that improve the instructional  
25 methodology of teachers of culturally and linguistically

1 diverse student populations; and

2 (5) evaluate the center using both formative  
3 and summative data and report annually with recommended funding  
4 for the following year to the legislative education study  
5 committee, legislative finance committee, state board and  
6 office of the governor. "

7 Section 2. APPROPRIATION. --Five hundred thousand dollars  
8 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the state  
9 department of public education for expenditure in fiscal year  
10 2004 to establish and conduct the center for rural and Native  
11 American education. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance  
12 remaining at the end of fiscal year 2004 shall revert to the  
13 general fund.